Policy for power generation through Hydel sources

1068. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the policy proposed to be adopted by Government in Ninth five Year Plan for power generation through hydel sources;

(b) whether there is a need to give priority to execute mini hydle power plants;

(c) if so, the instructions given to the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) the response of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) Considering the declining hydel-thermal mix in the generating capacity, Government has proposed greater emphasis on the hydel generation including the mini/micro hydel sources during the Ninth Plan. A package of incentives have been announced for hydro projects commissioned on or after 1.1.1977 to encourage greater private sector participation. Under the Common Minimum National Action Plan, States have been urged to prepare shelves of fully cleared hydro projects for implementation through public and Private Sector. The Action Plan has been adopted by Government after a consensus was reached with the State Governments in December, 1996. Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has also identified potential schemes for mini/micro and canal based power stations. The list of these schemes has been made available to the State Governments. Funds from the PFC will be available for such schemes.

Commercial Losses of SEBs

1069. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) wether it is a fact that the commercial losses of all SEBs put together were Rs. 4955 crores in March, 1994 and increased to Rs. 7130 crores in 1996 mainly because of low rates and collection; and

(b) if so, how do Government plan to resolve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) As per the Statement of Accounts received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the commercial losses of 17 SEBs, without taking into account Rural Electrification Subsidy as provided in the Accounts, were Rs. 3018.91 crores in March, 1994 and increased to Rs. 6748.68 crores in March, 1996 mainly due to poor realisation of revenue per unit vis-a-vis cost of supply to consumers, irrational tariff, low plant load factor, high T&D losses etc.

(b) the Common Minimum National Action Plan for power issued in December, 1996 after consultation with the State Governments, aims at an overall improvement in the functioning of the State Power Utilities including the State Electricity Boards. The Action Plan, inter alia, seeks to set up State Electricity Regulatory Commissions; rationalise retail tariffs; facilitate autonomy of the State Electricity Boards and improvement in management practices of these Boards and press improvement in physical parameters so that the overall PLF in the State Sector reaches a minimum level of 65% in the next 5 year, introduce compulsory metering at sub-stations and on all major features; compulsory annual energy audit of large consumers and time of the day-meatering for big power consumers for better load management etc.